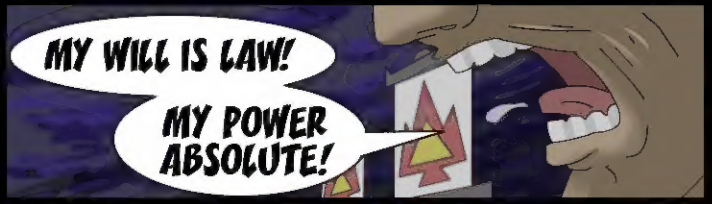
IDLE MINDS

THINK YOU KNOW WHAT LIFE
AS A STATUE IS LIKE?

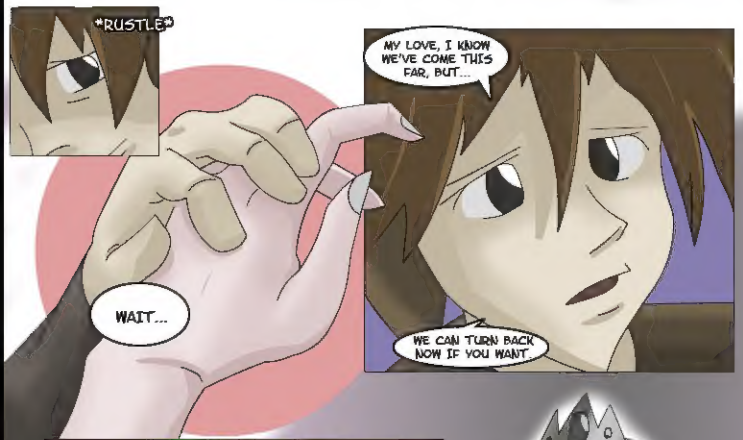
A STORY BY IAN SAMSON

SUBJECTS AND SLAVES!
YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO RAISE YOUR HEADS AND HAVE THE HONOR OF LOOKING TOWARD MY GLORY
THIS LAND IS MINE, AND ALL TRANSGRESSIONS AGAINST ME WILL BE SEVERELY PUNISHED!

YOU ARE NO LONGER PEOPLE, BUT SERVANTS TO MY WILL!
THIS IS YOUR FATE!
WE'RE IN!


MY WILL IS LAW!
MY POWER ABSOLUTE!

WE NEED TO MOVE FAST. PUT ON THESE CLOTHES, CAUSE YOU'LL NEED TO LOOK THE PART.
OKAY... THIS IS THE HALL OF STATUES?
YES. THIS IS WHERE THEY'LL MEET, AND WHERE YOU'LL BE WATCHING.


RUSTLE
WAIT...
MY LOVE, I KNOW WE'VE COME THIS FAR, BUT...
WE CAN TURN BACK NOW IF YOU WANT.

NO, THIS IS FOR OUR FRIENDS, OUR LAND, AND US...
I'M READY.

THEN LET THIS BE DONE.
IMMORTALIS LITHONON
LIVING STATUE... YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL, MY LOVE.

IDLE MINDS

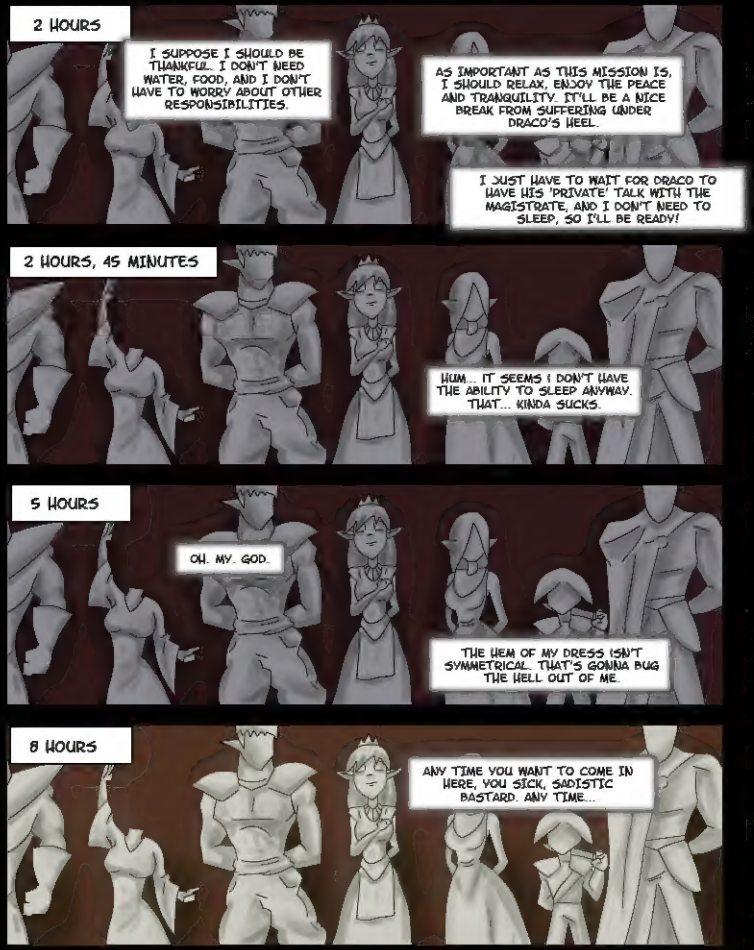
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY IAN SAMSON

5 MINUTES
SO, THAT'S ME?
I'M... BEAUTIFUL
AND IT SEEMS I CAN LOOK AROUND, SOMEHOW. LUKE DID WORK OUT THIS SPELL PRETTY THOROUGHLY.
OKAY... THINK OF THE MISSION. CONCENTRATE ON THAT. I'M HERE FOR A REASON.
WHAT DID HE SAY AGAIN?
MY LOVE, THIS SPELL WILL KEEP YOU AWAKE AND WARY, AND SHOULD PRESERVE YOUR STATE OF MIND.
YEAH, HE WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO MAKE THIS EASY ON ME

DRACO CAME OUT OF NOWHERE. HE RELEASED OUR IMPRISONED CRIMINALS, MURDERERS, AND MONSTERS, AND USED THEM IN HIS ARMY. THEY KNEW SO MUCH OF US, AND SO DESTROYED US FROM THE INSIDE-OUT
KINGS AND SCHOLARS WERE KILLED EARLY, AND WE WERE HELPLESS WITHOUT THEM. OUR LAND NOW BELONGED TO THE INHUMAN AND CORRUPT
AS A LIVING STATUE, I CAN HELP SPY ON DRACO IN ONE OF HIS MOST PRIVATE TROPHY ROOMS, AND WE MAY JUST GET THE EDGE WE NEED. IT'S AN HONOR TO BE SUCH A PIVOTAL PLAYER IN THE UPCOMING REBELLION.

20 MINUTES

30 MINUTES
YEEE 'UP. PRETTY HEROIC.


2 HOURS
I SUPPOSE I SHOULD BE THANKFUL. I DON'T NEED WATER, FOOD, AND I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES.
AS IMPORTANT AS THIS MISSION IS, I SHOULD RELAX, ENJOY THE PEACE AND TRANQUILITY. IT'LL BE A NICE BREAK FROM SUFFERING UNDER DRACO'S HEEL.
I JUST HAVE TO WAIT FOR DRACO TO HAVE HIS 'PRIVATE' TALK WITH THE MAGISTRATE, AND I DON'T NEED TO SLEEP, SO I'LL BE READY!
2 HOURS, 45 MINUTES
HUM... IT SEEMS I DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO SLEEP ANYWAY. THAT... KINDA SUCKS.
5 HOURS
OH. MY. GOD.
THE HEM OF MY DRESS ISN'T SYMMETRICAL. THAT'S GONNA BUG THE HELL OUT OF ME.
8 HOURS
ANY TIME YOU WANT TO COME IN HERE, YOU SICK, SADISTIC BASTARD. ANY TIME...

10 HOURS
... AND LOOK AT THAT STUPID LOOKING NECKLACE. YUP, I AM DEFINATELY PRETTIER THAN THE STATUE TO MY LEFT.
... SLUT.
12 HOURS
'.... WITH A HOP AND A JUMP, LITTLE JACK WENT THUMP! AND THE WOLF HAD A HAPPY MEAL.'
ALL RIGHT! THAT'S 10 NURSERY RHYMES I CAN REMEMBER!
15 HOURS
GOD, I WANT TO SLEEP
20 HOURS
WOW, THE SKY FINALLY TURNED DARK. THIS STUPID DAY LASTED FOREVER!
ONE DOWN, SIX TO GO.... I HOPE THEY'RE ALL THIS FUN...

1 DAY, 13 HOURS

OYE... I SHOULD TRY TO THINK OF SOMETHING ELSE... ANYTHING...

THESE ARE REALLY NICE STATUES. I WONDER WHY THEY WERE MADE. AND FOR WHO?

SOME HAVE INSCRIPTIONS, IT APPEARS, BUT IT'S SO HARD TO MAKE ANY OF THEM OUT. EVEN THIS ONE NEXT TO ME.

SOMETHING ABOUT 'AN ISLAND,' AND, WHAT IS THAT... 'FLIGHT'? I CAN'T EVEN SQUINT TO TRY TO GET A BETTER LOOK!

IS THAT A NAME? LOOKS LIKE...

MARI? HMMM...

WHAT KIND OF PERSON WERE YOU, MARI? WHY'D SOMEONE MAKE A STATUE OF YOU?

1 DAY, 23 HOURS

I'M ACTUALLY STARTING TO GET KIND OF SCARED, MARI. I'M WORRIED ABOUT SO MANY THINGS. WHAT IF I LOSE TRACK OF TIME? WHAT IF SOMEONE BREAKS ME BEFORE LUKE GETS BACK? WHAT IF DRACO HAS A WAY TO SENSE THIS KIND OF MAGIC?

OH... OH MARI, WHAT WOULD YOU SAY? THAT I'M BEING SILLY? THAT I SHOULD TRUST IN LUKE?

... YOU'D BE RIGHT. YOU KNOW, I'M SORRY ABOUT THE COMMENT I MADE EARLIER. THE, AHEM, INSULT. IT WAS VERY, VERY RUDE AND INCONSIDERATE OF ME. I HOPE YOU FORGIVE ME.

...

GEEZ, TALKING TO A STATUE. WHAT A SILLY IDEA.

2 DAYS, 8 HOURS

WHY, GOOD MORNING THERE, MARI!

GOOD MORNING! WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?

OH, I... HMMM...

I WENT OUT WITH LUKE! WE HUNG OUT BY OUR FAVORITE TREE - THE BIGGEST IN THE FOREST!

AND WE DANCED AND DANCED, AND HE EVEN WORE HIS OLD ARMY UNIFORM.

AND THEN WE... AND THEN WE...

SNIFF

ARE YOU CRYING?

I MISS SLEEPING!

2 DAYS, 12 HOURS

YOU'VE TALKED SO MUCH ABOUT LUKE, BUT YOU HAVEN'T REALLY TOLD ME MUCH ABOUT YOURSELF YET.

AND DID I TELL YOU HE LED A STUPID LITTLE GROUP CALLED THE BOOM BOOM KIDS? HALF THE TIME IT WAS TO MAKE FUN OF THE TOWN GIRLS, WHO WERE, OF COURSE, NOT INVITED.

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE HIM AGAIN. BUT I STILL WILL HAVE TO KILL HIM WHEN HE SHOWS UP.

HE WAS ALWAYS A GOOD LEADER, BUT HE USUALLY LIKED GOING OFF ON HIS OWN. ONE TIME...

EXCUSE ME?

WELL, THERE'S SURELY MORE TO YOU THAN HIM, RIGHT? WHAT WAS LIFE LIKE BEFORE HE STARTED SNEAKING INTO YOUR HOUSE AT NIGHT?

WELL, UM...

2 DAYS, 13 HOURS

H... HOLD ON! I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING...

YOU KNOW WHAT, LET'S TALK ABOUT LUKE AGAIN.

IT'S BEEN AWHILE. HASN'T IT? MONTHS? I SUPPOSE I SHOULD CLEAN THIS OLD, NEGLECTED MESS.

AND YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, AREN'T YOU.

THAT'S GOOD.

THAT'S FANTASTIC.

BUT KEEPING YOU HERE IS BECOMING QUITE THE EYESORE. I HATE LEAVING THINGS UNFINISHED...

NOT LIKE YOUR STORY WILL EVER REALLY END, EH?

ONLY THING I WONDER NOW IS... HOW LONG AFTER YOUR DUST IS FLUNG TO THE WIND...

BEFORE YOU FORGET YOU EVER USED TO BE HUMAN?

2 DAYS, 22 HOURS

AND THEN WE'LL PUT MY DUST INTO A HUNDRED LITTLE BAGS, AND SEND EACH OF THEM TO A DIFFERENT NATION, DUMPING THEM INTO OCEANS, VOLCANOES, QUICKSAND...

YOU KNOW WHAT?

MAYBE SPRINKLE A LITTLE OF ME INTO HIS FOOD FOR GOOD LUCK. THEN I CAN POISON HIM FROM THE INSIDE!

A FREAKY IMAGINATION. THAT'S WHAT WE CAN ATTRIBUTE TO YOU.

3 DAYS, 16 HOURS

SO, UM, YEAH.

UH HUH.

IT'S BEEN AWHILE, RIGHT? SINCE WE DID ANYTHING.

TOO LONG. ANY IDEAS?

DID YOUR DAD TELL YOU FAIRY TALES TOO? WE COULD QUIZ EACH OTHER!

... I HOPE I DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU WHY THAT'S A BAD IDEA.

WHY NOT?

COME ON, LET'S FACE IT. I'M A FIGMENT OF YOUR IMAGINATION.

YOU KNOW SO MUCH MORE ABOUT FAIRY TALES THAN ME. IT'D BE ANNOYING.

YOU KNOW, I WENT OVER THEM IN THE HOURS BEFORE I MET YOU. HOW ABOUT I TELL YOU A FEW. IT'LL BE FUN!

OH... JOY...

WELL, SURE! SOUNDS LIKE GOOD FUN.

4 DAYS, 2 HOURS

WHOA... THAT WAS WEIRD.

WHAT HAPPENED?

I... FELT SOMETHING. I FELT SOMETHING!

AND YOU WERE JUST TELLING ME YOU WERE TIRED OF ONLY FEELING YOUR HAND ON YOUR CHEST.

YEAH... WHAT DOES THIS MEAN? DOES IT MEAN THE SPELL IS WEARING OFF?

WHOA... THE FEELING IS GETTING, UM..

WHAT? WHAT?

HOLY CRAP! HOLY CRAP! HOLY CRAP! HOLY CRAP!

WHAT!!!

AAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!

4 DAYS, 10 HOURS

WELL, TWO THINGS I'M GOING TO END UP PROUD OF AFTER THIS WHOLE ADVENTURE.

ONE, I SAVE THE ENTIRE NATION FROM A MONSTROUS TYRANT

TWO, I GET OVER MY FEAR OF RATS

IF ONLY . IF ONLY ALL MY PROBLEMS COULD BE SOLVED BY STARING AT THEM IN THE FACE LONG ENOUGH

SO! MARI! HAVE YOU MET MY NEW FRIEND? I'M GOING TO CALL HIM DEEDO

YOU'RE DOING IT AGAIN

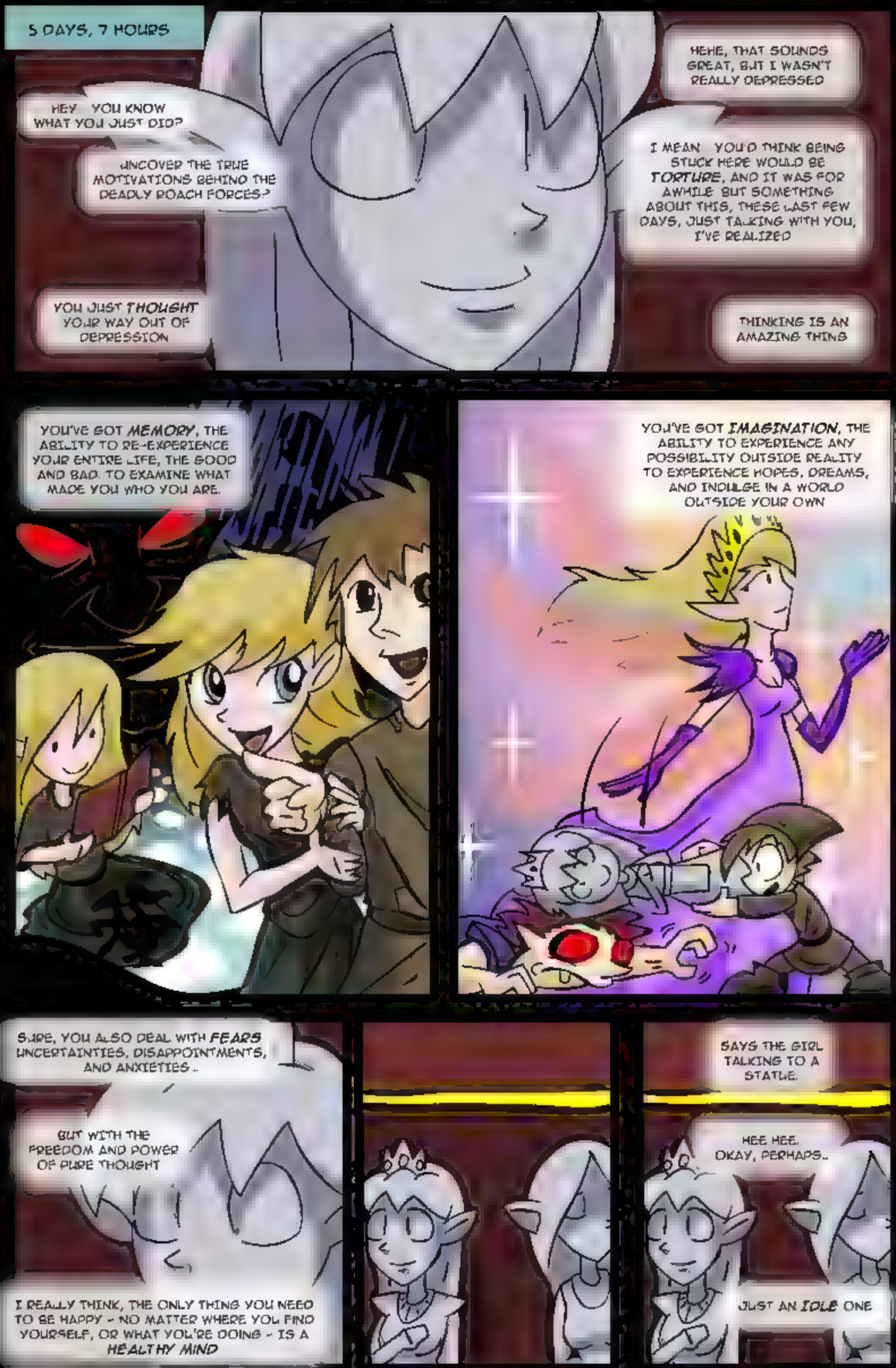
WHA.. WHAT? OH! MAKING UP NAMES?

I DO ADMIT THAT I SPENT WAY TOO MUCH TIME NAMING THE OTHER STATUES . THOUGH I'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN HALF OF THEM. I STILL REMEMBER GUILLOTINE GIRL!

WHAT I MEANT WAS YOU ONCE AGAIN PRETENDING YOUR PROBLEMS DON'T EXIST

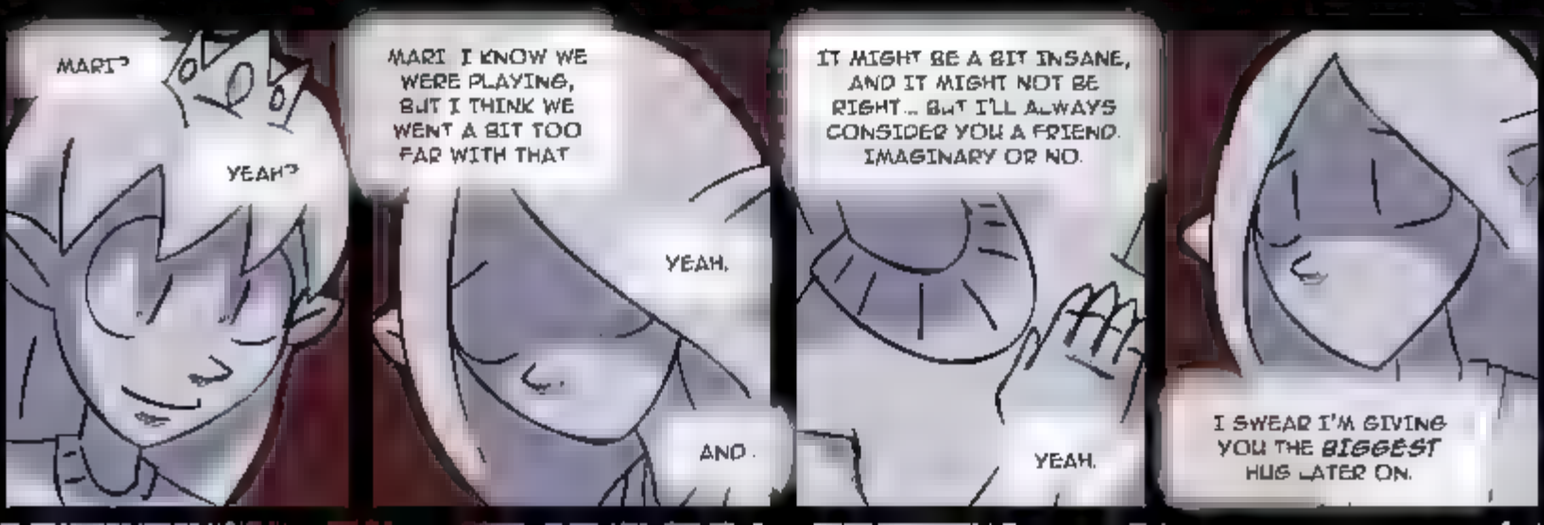
UH . UH. HEY DEEDO! GO PLAY WITH MARI! HEH HEH HEH. .

5 DAYS 5 HOURS
I GUESS THAT'S IT
WHAT?
I'VE TOTALLY RUN OUT OF THINGS TO THINK ABOUT
YOU'RE KIDDING ME YOU CAN'T RUN OUT OF THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!
I HAVE! I ASSURE YOU
FAIRY TALES
DAILY LIFE ON THE FARM.
LUKE'S ARMY STORIES
WHAT I'D EXPECT FROM LIFE AS DUST..
YUP! BONE DRY!
IT HASN'T EVEN BEEN A WEEK!!
AH BUT A WEEK SPENT ENTIRELY IN THINKING IT KINDA GETS OLD, YA KNOW?
BUT.. YOU CAN'T JUST RUN OUT OF... THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING I MEAN LOOK AT US NOW! THINKING ABOUT THINKING
WHOA. WHAT IF THE ONLY THING I'LL BE ABLE TO THINK ABOUT IS HOW LITTLE I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT.
AND THEN I'LL BE CONSUMED WITH THINKING ABOUT THINKING ABOUT HOW LITTLE I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT
AND THEN I'LL THINK ABOUT HOW LITTLE I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT TO GET OVER THINKING ABOUT THINKING ABOUT HOW LITTLE I HAVE TO THINK ABOUT
AH, CRAP. WHAT HAVE I DONE. TELL ME WHEN THIS IS OVER I'M OUT OF HERE.
CRAP
I ESTIMATE ABOUT FORTY LEVELS OF 'THINKING ABOUT THINKING' BEFORE I GET BORED AND START THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING RANDOM, LIIIIKE
ROACHES!
ROACHES ARE WORTHY OF BEING THUNK ABOUT, RIGHT?
YES! DEAR GOD, YES!


5 DAYS, 7 HOURS
HEY... YOU KNOW WHAT YOU JUST DID?
UNCOVER THE TRUE MOTIVATIONS BEHIND THE DEADLY ROACH FORCES?
YOU JUST THOUGHT YOUR WAY OUT OF DEPRESSION
HEHE, THAT SOUNDS GREAT, BUT I WASN'T REALLY DEPRESSED
I MEAN... YOU'D THINK BEING STUCK HERE WOULD BE TORTURE, AND IT WAS FOR AWHILE BUT SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, THESE LAST FEW DAYS, JUST TALKING WITH YOU, I'VE REALIZED
THINKING IS AN AMAZING THING
YOU'VE GOT MEMORY, THE ABILITY TO RE-EXPERIENCE YOUR ENTIRE LIFE, THE GOOD AND BAD. TO EXAMINE WHAT MADE YOU WHO YOU ARE.
YOU'VE GOT IMAGINATION, THE ABILITY TO EXPERIENCE ANY POSSIBILITY OUTSIDE REALITY TO EXPERIENCE HOPES, DREAMS, AND INDULGE IN A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR OWN
SURE, YOU ALSO DEAL WITH FEARS UNCERTAINTIES, DISAPPOINTMENTS, AND ANXIETIES...
BUT WITH THE FREEDOM AND POWER OF PURE THOUGHT
I REALLY THINK, THE ONLY THING YOU NEED TO BE HAPPY - NO MATTER WHERE YOU FIND YOURSELF, OR WHAT YOU'RE DOING - IS A HEALTHY MIND
SAYS THE GIRL TALKING TO A STATUE.
HEE HEE. OKAY, PERHAPS...
JUST AN IDLE ONE

5 DAYS, 23 HOURS
COME ON! DO IT, MARI!!
THIS IS SILLY! I DON'T WANT TO
IT'LL BE FUN!
DON'T BLAME ME IF LUKE SENDS YOU TO AN ASYLUM
WHY, GOOD MORNING THERE NAMELESS LITTLE STATUE!
OH, HELLO THERE, PRINCESS MARI. YOUR HIGHNESS! I DO SO HOPE THAT YOUR TEMPORARY TIME AS A STATUE DOES NOT GO UNWELL
WE SIMPLY DO WHAT WE MUST LITTLE STATUE AH, WITH BUT A DAY MORE, I DO GROW ANXIOUS TO RETURN TO MY KINGDOM, FULL OF UNICORNS GOLD-PAVED ROADS, AND ALL MY EAGER SUBJECTS
I IMAGINE IT WILL BE WONDERFUL, PRINCESS WE POOR SIMPLE, LIFELESS STATUES HERE WILL TRULY MISS YOUR AUGUST PRESENCE
I DARESAY, I WILL MISS THIS HALL ESPECIALLY YOU, FRIEND OF STONE
YOU BESTOW UPON ME AN HONOR! THE HIGHEST SUCH A SIMPLE OBJECT AS MYSELF CAN RECEIVE
NOT QUITE! WHEN I RETURN AS RULER OF MY LAND, I SHALL BRING YOU TOO!
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE FOUNTAIN IN THE CENTER OF THE PALACE GARDENS? WE COULD CARVE A HOLLOW THROUGH YOU!
MY POSTURE IS UNSUITED FOR SUCH, BUT AN ETERNITY IN SUCH A PLACE OF HONOR AND BEAUTY WOULD BE A TRUE JOY!
HMM, THIS IS KINDA CREEPY, NOW THAT I GET INTO IT
STAY IN CHARACTER, LITTLE STATUE I'M LOVING THIS.

6 DAYS, 7 HOURS
I'M AFRAID, LITTLE STATUE, I'VE COME TO A DILEMMA.
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP, PRINCESS MARI?
I'M AFRAID MY SANITY IS IN QUESTION AND, I DO NOT MEAN THIS AS AN ACCUSATION, BUT YOU ARE PART OF THE PROBLEM.
ME?
I AM DAUGHTER TO THE KING, RULER OF THE FLYING ISLANDS AND I AM SPEAKING TO A STATUE AS IF IT WERE A FRIEND.
AM. I NOT, MY LADY?
IT'S JUST THAT... YOU ARE NOT REAL. TO CONTINUE WITH THIS FARCE IS UNHEALTHY. I'M AFRAID I'M STARTING TO LIKEN YOU TO A GOLDEN IDOL.
AND IT IS NOT YOUR FAULT, LITTLE STATUE. IT IS MINE... AND I FEEL I MUST STOP TALKING TO YOU.
IF YOU FEEL IT IS BEST, YOUR HIGHNESS. I WILL COOPERATE. AND IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER, REMEMBER THAT I WAS NEVER TRULY ALIVE TO BEGIN WITH.
YES. THIS IS TRUE.
THEN, THIS IS FOR THE BEST. LET THIS BE GOOD BYE, LITTLE STATUE.


MARI?
YEAH?
MARI. I KNOW WE WERE PLAYING, BUT I THINK WE WENT A BIT TOO FAR WITH THAT.
YEAH.
AND.
IT MIGHT BE A BIT INSANE, AND IT MIGHT NOT BE RIGHT... BUT I'LL ALWAYS CONSIDER YOU A FRIEND. IMAGINARY OR NO.
YEAH.
I SWEAR I'M GIVING YOU THE BIGGEST HUG LATER ON.

6 DAYS, 9 HOURS
DEEDO, DO YOU HAVE FAMILY? LITTLE BABIES IN A HOLE SOMEWHERE? I'D LOVE TO MEET THEM ONE DAY!
DISGUSTING SIMPLY DISGUSTING AND FILTHY AND.. AND..
JEALOUS?
WHY DOESN'T HE COME SIT ON MY HEAD!
I WONDER IF HE CAN SENSE ME SOMEHOW
YOU'RE A SPECIAL LITTLE PET, AREN'T YOU, DEEDO!
HA! LOOK AT THAT, LITTLE STATUE! HE'S COMING TO ME NOW! WHO'S REAL NOW HUH? HUH?
STUPID RAT
CHT- CHT! CHT-
HMMPH
LATE, OF COURSE DIMWITTED BEAST
FINALLY
I HAVE TO SNEAK OUT OF MY TOWN MILES AWAY WITHOUT ANYONE SEEING ME YOU'RE ON THE THRONE ROOM TWO TOWERS DOWN WHAT TOOK YOU SO LONG
TAP
YOU COULDN'T WAIT TWO MINUTES?
I COULD HAVE GIVEN YOUR POWER TO ANYONE. ALL I DEMAND IS RESPECT, AND OBEDIENCE
WHAT IS THE UPDATE?
WHO'S HE?
THE TRAVELLER. A TRAITOR
DEEDO..

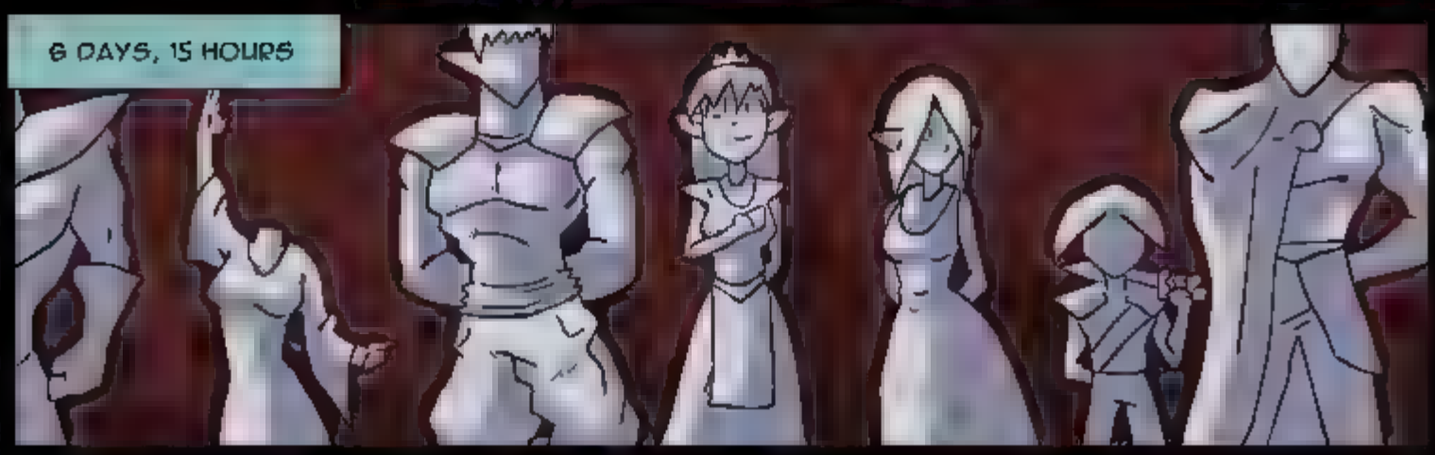
THE DIGGING CREWS ARE GETTING CLOSE. THAT PLEASANT AROMA IS COMING THROUGH THE VAPORS.
GOOD, GOOD.
AND THE DRAGON'S HEART?
THE DARK DRAGONS ARE GETTING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THEIR MISSING CHAMPION, BUT WE HAVE WHAT WE NEED.
THEY WON'T DISCOVER WHAT WE'RE UP TO IN TIME FOR THE SUMMONING.
AND NOW, WHAT'S THE LAST PIECE YOU'VE BEEN KEEPING FROM ME?
HMM.
DEEDO
THIS IS MORE THAN WE THOUGHT! PAY ATTENTION!
THE HALL OF STATUES.
ARTSY TRIBUTES TO THIS LAND'S GREATEST HEROES AND RULERS.
YOU KNOW, MY GRANDFATHER HAD A STATUE HERE. WHEN THEY EXILED MY FAMILY, THEY DESTROYED IT.
GET SOME OF THE DWARVES TO MAKE ANOTHER LARGER, PERHAPS.
IS THAT PART OF THE PLAN?
NO, IT'S AN ORDER.
GRR.
THEN, GREAT MAGISTRATE, IN GOOD FAITH, I'LL GIVE YOU ONE OF THESE STATUES TO MAKE UP FOR THE LOSS OF THE ORIGINAL.
PLEASE, SIR, TAKE YOUR PICK.
WAIT, WHAT?!
I OWN THIS ALREADY, FOOL.
STILL, DECORATION FOR MY FUTURE FORTRESS? A NICE GESTURE.
I'LL TAKE...
YOU TOOK DEEDO, YOU KEEP THE HELL AWAY FROM MARI, YOU...

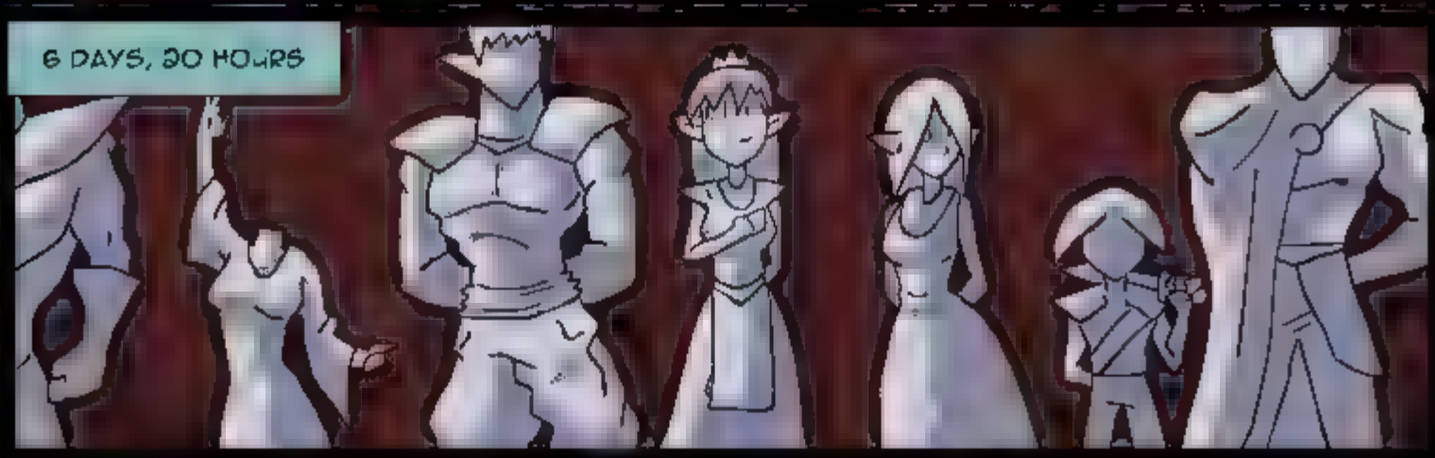
THIS ONE
WHAT?
GOOD CHOICE. IT WILL BE SENT TOMORROW MORNING
YOU DO THAT, AND YOU'RE IN MY GOOD GRACES AGAIN, DRACO
IT'LL LOOK NICE IN MY THRONE ROOM.
THE NAMELESS STATUE WOULD STAND BY THE TRAITOR'S SIDE, EVER SMILING
WATCHING AS ITS HOME WAS DESTROYED, WATCHING AS.
FOCUS, DAMMIT!
TOGETHER. MAKE SURE THE GOBLINS ARE KEPT IN CHECK. DESTROY EVERYTHING
IF THEY FIND OUT, WE'LL BE FACING A WAR ON TWO FRONTS. MORE WHEN THE DRAGONS LEARN WHAT WE'RE DOING
FOOLISH COWARD. THE POWER WE'RE ABOUT TO RECEIVE WILL ENSURE OUR VICTORY EVEN IF THE ENTIRE WORLD STOOD AGAINST US
I MISSED SOMETHING! DAMN IT, I MISSED SOMETHING!
STUPID... STUPID!
YOU'LL MISS MORE IF YOU DON'T FOCUS!!
DEEDO
HE'S TAKING ME AWAY
LUKE ARRIVED IN THE HALL OF STATUES... AND HIS LOVE WAS GONE
HE SPENT HIS WHOLE LIFE SEARCHING. HE NEVER FOUND HER.
AFTER HIM, NO ONE WOULD SEEK HER. NO ONE WOULD FIND HER

CLACK
WHAT?
OH GOD
THEY'RE GONE
THAT WAS IT?
FAILURE
DEEDO..
LUKE
ETERNITY
WHERE'S THE SECRET WEAKNESS?
WAS THERE ANYTHING EVEN THERE? MAYBE I... I MISSED IT
LUKE SAVES HER, BUT HATES HER FOR HER FAILURE. SHE DIES UNLOVED, THE LAND'S DESTRUCTION ON HER HANDS.
SHE'S TAKEN AWAY TRAPPED FOREVER
DEEDO'S DEAD
MARI TURNS HER BACK ON HER NOT PAYING ATTENTION LIKE SHE SHOULD HAVE, SO LOST IN HER SELFISH FEARS AND RAGE AND WEAKNESS
THE TRAVELLER .. A MONSTER I'LL BE HIS

MY LITTLE STATUE
MARI! MARI... I'M SO SORRY, I FAILED. I...
WHERE'S THAT ONE BIT OF INFO THAT LUKE AND I WANTED?
I..
SHH...
YOUR TIME ISN'T OVER YET THE MISSION ISN'T OVER
REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE, ABOUT THE MIND
BUT WHAT OF MY FAMILY? LUKE? HOW DO I HELP THEM?
THINK?
YOU DO WHAT YOU CAN.
AND THE MIND IS NO SMALL THING.
RIGHT NOW MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IT IS BOTH YOUR GREATEST ASSET, AND GREATEST ENEMY
BEYOND YOUR FEARS AND DESPAIR, LIES A POWER GREATER THAN YOU REALIZE

AND A HEART
THAT I KNOW IS STRONGER THAN YOU KNOW
NOW, EITHER WAY, WE HAVE A FEW HOURS LEFT TOGETHER LET US SPEND THEM WELL.


6 DAYS, 15 HOURS


6 DAYS, 30 HOURS

7 DAYS 4 HOURS
CARNE VIVENTE

-----AAAAH!
LUKE... HM
LUKE!
I'M SO SORRY... EVERY DAY WAS KILLING ME I SHOULDN'T HAVE LET YOU
LUKE WE NEED TO GO SOMEONE MIGHT COME AT ANY MOMENT..

YES, LET US LEAVE THIS PLACE.
GOOD BYE, LITTLE STATUE...
I'LL THINK OF YOU OFTEN.
LUKE, I NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S CHANGED OUT THERE.
THE DRAGONS HAVE GROWN MORE VICIOUS, BUT THE TRAVELLER'S MAGIC HAS GIVEN US A FIGHTING CHANCE.
YOUR FATHER'S FARM IS MOSTLY UNTOUCHED, BUT THE GOBLINS KEEP TAKING HIS LIVESTOCK.
OTHER THAN SCATTERED FIGHTING, AND HAVING TO RELOCATE ONE OF OUR RESISTANCE BASES, NOT MUCH HAS CHANGED ON OUR SIDE.
OKAY... OKAY.
IT SHOULD STILL WORK...
MY TURN.
FIRST, LUKE, YOU MUST KNOW THE TRAVELLER IS THE 'MAGISTRATE' THAT DRACO MET.
IN FACT, DRACO... WORKS FOR HIM.
WHAT?!
BUT... HE'S BEEN HELPING US SURVIVE!
HE'S THE ONE WHO WARNED US ABOUT DRACO IN THE FIRST PLACE!
WHY?
TO BUILD OUR TRUST.
HE AND DRACO CAN TAKE WHAT THEY NEED FROM THE DRAGONS AND GOBLINS WITH BRUTE FORCE AND SECRECY...
BUT HE NEEDS SOMETHING FROM US, SOMETHING ONLY WE CAN GIVE TO HIM.
SOMETHING COMMON FOLK LIKE YOU OR I DON'T KNOW BUT THE ELDER, WHO I'LL BET THE TRAVELLER HAS BEEN HOVERING AROUND, MOST CERTAINLY DOES.

AND IF HE GETS IT... WHAT WILL HE DO WITH IT?
IT'S AN OLD FAIRY TALE I REMEMEBERED. FOR US A STORY OF HOPE, FOR THEM, GREED AND AMBITION.
THREE 'IMPOSSIBLE' THINGS ARE NEEDED TO PASS THREE BARRIERS HIDDEN DEEP BENEATH A SO-CALLED PARADISE. THIS THING THEY SEEK HAS ALREADY BEEN FOUND BENEATH THE CASTLE.
IT'S A POWER THAT RIVALS ANYTHING THE TRAVELLER KNOWS.
WELL, LET'S TELL THE GOBLINS AND DRAGONS! IF WE STAND TOGETHER...
I THOUGHT OF THAT, AND, NO, THEY WILL NOT STAND BY US. WORSE, THEY MAY TRY TO *TAKE* THE POWER FOR THEMSELVES.
THEN WE'VE GOT TO *KILL* THE TRAVELLER. HE'S RIGHT THERE, IN OUR MIDST!
NO, WE CAN'T DO THAT EITHER. HIS POWER IS STILL A BIG QUESTION MARK, AND EVEN IF WE SUCCEED, WE CAN'T SURVIVE DRACO'S FORCES WITHOUT HIM, RIGHT NOW.
THERE'S NO WAY THEY MENTIONED *ALL* THIS DURING THEIR MEETING...
SOME OF IT. THE REST, I *FIGURED* IT OUT.
I HAD *A LOT* OF TIME TO THINK THINGS THROUGH.

AND YOU KNOW WHAT ELSE I DID?
I CAME UP WITH A PLAN.
WE'RE GOING TO NEED OLD MAN JOHNSON'S BOMBS. ALL OF THEM, FOR ONE BLOW.
AND YOUR STATUE SPELL.
AND A SMALL, READY ARMY, SET IN THE FOREST.
IT GETS A LITTLE COMPLICATED...
WOW.
BUT BASICALLY, WE NEED TO TRICK THE TRAVELLER, AND DRACO TO MEET ONE LAST TIME, AND TAKE EACH OTHER DOWN.
AND WE NEED TO TAKE THIS SECRET POWER FOR OURSELVES.
I'LL TELL YOU THE DETAILS ON THE WAY BACK, AND WE CAN TALK WITH THE WAR MINISTERS TO POLISH IT UP...
AMAZING... JUST...
THERE'S ONE MORE THING...
DO IT.
I WANT TO BE PART OF THE WAR EFFORT.
Y... YOU DON'T HAVE TO. AFTER THIS, GO BACK TO YOUR FARM, AND STAY SAFE...
I WAS A STATUE LONG BEFORE THIS. I DON'T WANT TO WATCH FROM AFAR, NOT CONTRIBUTING, NOT ACTING... NOT FACING THE PROBLEMS OUT IN THE WORLD.
NO ONE CAN BE ALIVE ON A PEDESTAL.
I'M READY.

ALANA...
YOU'VE ALREADY DONE SO MUCH... AND I'M CERTAIN YOU'LL DO MUCH MORE.
HEHE, IF MY PLANS GO AS PLANNED...
WE'LL HAVE A WEEK. ANOTHER SEVEN DAYS.
BUT THIS TIME, TOGETHER, IN EVERY WAY.
LET'S GO.
end